



Non-governmental Organization Emancipimi Civil Ma Ndryshe
EC MA NDRYSHE

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PRESS RELEASE

Municipal Transparency Reform Index is published

EC Ma Ndryshe published the Municipal Transparency Reform Index, within which are presented the results of 13 relevant groups of indicators which show the level of transparency during 2015 in the municipalities of Prishtina, Prizren, Ferizaj, Peja, Gjilan, Gjakova and Mitrovica.

The index was launched during the conference where panelists Ruairi O'Connell, United Kingdom Ambassador in Pristina, Mimoza Kusari-Lila, Mayor of Gjakova, Gazmend Muhaxheri, Mayor of Peja and Jeta Xharra from BIRN, presented their views about transparency, but also participated in discussions with participants, representatives of local authorities from different municipalities, civil society activists, journalists, etc.

Municipal Transparency Reform Index states that municipality of Gjakova has positive scores in 8 of the 13 indicators, with two negative scores and three neutral scores. In the opposite side stands municipality of Prizren with 11 negative ratings and 2 neutral ones. Mitrovica has 7 neutral scores and 6 negative ones. Ferizaj has 6 neutral scores and 7 negative ones. Peja also has 6 neutral scores and 7 negative ones. Gjilan has 5 neutral scores and 8 negative ones. Besides Gjakova, it is only Pristina who has positive scores. Pristina has 3 positive scores, 6 neutral and 4 negative ones.

Groups of indicators that have been monitored and upon which the Index is written are: Mayor, Directors and Members of the Assembly, organization and functioning, work of policy-making and decision-making bodies, fighting of misconduct and abuses, European Integration, Accounting and Budget, contracts of Public Procurement, supplying and grants, employees in public administration and in public organizations/institutions, Capital and non capital asset, Information citizens' service, Cooperation with civil society, Urban planning and Monitoring of urban projects. Full content of the Index can be read in the link: http://ecmandryshe.org/repository/docs/160419223308_indeksi_alb.pdf

As part of deliberations, Ambassador O'Connell emphasized that "there is a need to change the mentality of the government, so, there should be a fair approach of officials and accountability to citizens". Denial of transparency and accountability is a serious insult to the citizens of a democracy," said O'Connell.

Mayor of Gjakova, Mimoza Kusari - Lila, added that raising the level of transparency and accountability has been one of the main goals of local government in Gjakova and in two years of governance has been one of the priorities. According to her, the further improvement of the level of transparency and accountability remains a goal of the municipality of Gjakova and such reports by civil society are extra motivation to municipality of Gjakova.

Mayor of Peja, Gazmend Muhaxheri outlined several factors that cause the failure to meet appropriate standards of transparency, ranging from internal capacities but also the current circumstances in the country.

Whereas Jeta Xharra from BIRN reminded that the provision of documents and information from officials apart from being a legal obligation is a guaranteed right as well.

EC Ma Ndryshe started to implement the project "Municipal Transparency Reform Index" since May 2015, thanks to the support of the British Embassy in Pristina, which covers main municipalities of Kosovo, Prishtina, Prizren, Peja Mitrovica, Gjilan, Ferizaj and Gjakova, as well as Suhareka, Rahovec, Malisheva, Dragash, Mamusha and Strpca. This project aims to assist the municipalities in identification of major gaps in terms of transparency as well as provision of guidelines for addressing and overcoming them.

Respectfully,

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British Embassy
Pristina

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